



February 21, 2003

HOUSE BILL No. 1605

DIGEST OF HB 1605 (Updated February 20, 2003 10:24 AM - DI 96)

Citations Affected: IC 9-19; IC 36-8; noncode.

Synopsis: Green lights on vehicles. Authorizes the display of green lights on a vehicle other than those that flash or revolve. Makes it a Class C infraction to display a flashing or revolving green light on a public or private motor vehicle other than one belonging to an emergency services responder. Revises the restrictions and conditions for display of green lights on a privately owned vehicle belonging to an emergency services responder. Authorizes an emergency services provider to display blue lights on a privately owned vehicle in the manner of a volunteer firefighter, and revises the conditions for display of lights on a vehicle operated by a volunteer firefighter or an emergency services provider.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Reske, Koch

January 16, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.
February 20, 2003, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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HB 1605—LS 6432/DI 96+



February 21, 2003

First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1605

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 9-19-14.5-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 1. **(a)** A privately owned vehicle belonging to a certified emergency medical technician, certified emergency medical service driver, or certified emergency medical service first responder while traveling in the line of duty in connection with emergency medical services activities may display **flashing** green lights, subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

(1) The lights ~~may not~~ **must** have a light source ~~less than fifty (50) candlepower.~~ **of at least thirty-five (35) watts.**

(2) All lights shall be placed on the:

(A) top of the vehicle;

(B) **dashboard inside a vehicle, shielded to prevent distracting the driver; or**

(C) **front of the vehicle upon the bumper or at bumper level.**

(3) Not more than ~~two (2)~~ **green lights four (4) green light**

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assemblies may be displayed on a **one (1)** vehicle, and each **green light assembly** must be of the flashing or revolving type. and visible at **three hundred sixty (360) degrees**.

(4) ~~The lights must consist of a lamp with a green lens and not of an uncolored lens with a green bulb.~~ However, the revolving lights **A green light assembly** may contain multiple bulbs.

(5) ~~The green lights~~ **A green light** may not be a part of the regular head lamps displayed on the vehicle. **Alternately flashing head lamps may be used as a supplemental warning device. Strobe lights or flashers may be installed into the light fixtures on the vehicle other than the alternating head lamps. The strobe lights or flashers may be either white or green, with the exception of red to the rear.**

(6) For a person authorized under this chapter to display a **flashing or revolving** green light on the person's vehicle, the person must first secure a written permit from the director of the state emergency management agency to use the light. The permit must be carried by the person when the light is displayed.

(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.

SECTION 2. IC 9-19-14.5-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 2. **(a)** Except as provided in section 1 of this chapter, a person who displays on any public or private motor vehicle at any time **flashing or revolving** green lights of any size or shape commits a Class C infraction.

(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.

SECTION 3. IC 9-19-14.5-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 3. **(a)** This chapter does not prohibit the operation of a vehicle lawfully equipped with a **flashing or revolving** green light from being operated as any other vehicle when the green light is not illuminated.

(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.

SECTION 4. IC 36-8-12-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.153-2002, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 11. (a) ~~Members~~ **A member** of a volunteer fire ~~departments~~ **department** may display blue lights on ~~their~~ **the member's** privately owned ~~vehicles~~ **vehicle** while en route to scenes of emergencies or to the fire station in the line of duty subject to the following conditions: **conditions in subsection (c).**

(b) A certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder while traveling in the line of duty in connection with emergency medical services activities may



display blue lights on the individual's privately owned vehicle, subject to the conditions in subsection (c).

(c) As set forth in subsections (a) and (b), blue lights may be displayed on a vehicle subject to the following:

(1) A light must have a light source of at least thirty-five (35) watts.

(2) All lights must be placed on the:

(A) top of the vehicle;

(B) dashboard inside a vehicle, shielded to prevent distracting the driver; or

(C) front of the vehicle upon the bumper or at bumper level.

(3) No more than four (4) blue light assemblies may be displayed on one (1) vehicle, and each blue light assembly must be of the flashing or revolving type.

(4) A blue light assembly may contain multiple bulbs.

(5) A blue light may not be a part of the regular head lamps displayed on the vehicles. Alternately flashing head lamps may be used as a supplemental warning device. Strobe lights or flashers may be installed into the light fixtures on the vehicle other than the alternating head lamps. The strobe lights or flashers may be either white or blue, with the exception of that red, yellow, or white may be used to the rear.

(b) (d) In order for a volunteer firefighter to display a blue light on a vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must secure a written permit from the chief of the volunteer fire department to use the blue light and must carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.

(e) In order for a:

(1) certified emergency medical technician;

(2) certified emergency medical service driver; or

(3) certified emergency medical service first responder;

to display a blue light on a vehicle, the certified emergency medical technician, the certified emergency medical service driver, or the certified emergency medical service first responder must first secure a written permit from the agency, entity, or company with which the person is employed or for which the person volunteers to use the light and must carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.

(c) (f) A person who is not a member of a volunteer fire department, a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder may not display an illuminated blue light on a vehicle.

(d) (g) A permittee of the owner of a vehicle lawfully equipped with



a blue light may operate the vehicle only if the blue light is not illuminated.

~~(e)~~ **(h)** A person who violates subsection (a), (b), ~~(c)~~, or (d), **(e), (f), or (g)** commits a Class C infraction. If the violator is a member of a volunteer fire department, the chief of the department shall discipline the violator under fire department rules and regulations. **If the violator is a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder, the violator shall be disciplined under the appropriate employment or volunteer policy of the agency, entity, or company by which the person is employed or for which the person volunteers.**

~~(f)~~ **(i)** This section does not grant a vehicle displaying blue lights the right-of-way under IC 9-21-8-35 or exemption from traffic rules under IC 9-21-1-8. A driver of a vehicle displaying a blue light shall obey all traffic rules.

~~(g)~~ **(j)** This section shall not be construed to include a vehicle displaying a blue light and driven by a member of a volunteer fire department, **a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder** as an authorized emergency vehicle (as defined in IC 9-13-2-6).

SECTION 5. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] **(a) If a privately owned vehicle that is used while traveling in the line of duty in connection with emergency medical services is owned by a person described in IC 9-19-14.5-1, as amended by this act, before July 1, 2003, and is equipped with green lights as set forth in IC 9-19-14.5-1, as amended by this act, the person may continue to operate and use the lights on the vehicle in the manner provided for by IC 9-19-14.5-1 until July 1, 2008.**

(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2008.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Roads and Transportation, to which was referred House Bill 1605, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 2, after "1." insert "(a)".

Page 1, line 6, after "display" insert "**flashing**".

Page 2, between lines 17 and 18, begin a new paragraph and insert: "**(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.**".

Page 2, line 19, after "2." insert "(a)".

Page 2, between lines 22 and 23, begin a new paragraph and insert: "**(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.**".

Page 2, line 24, after "3." insert "(a)".

Page 2, after line 27, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(b) This section expires June 30, 2008.

SECTION 4. IC 36-8-12-11, AS AMENDED BY P.L.153-2002, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 11. (a) ~~Members~~ **A member** of a volunteer fire ~~departments~~ **department** may display blue lights on ~~their the~~ **member's** privately owned ~~vehicles~~ **vehicle** while en route to scenes of emergencies or to the fire station in the line of duty subject to the ~~following conditions:~~ **conditions in subsection (c).**

(b) A certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder while traveling in the line of duty in connection with emergency medical services activities may display blue lights on the individual's privately owned vehicle, subject to the conditions in subsection (c).

(c) As set forth in subsections (a) and (b), blue lights may be displayed on a vehicle subject to the following:

- (1) A light must have a light source of at least thirty-five (35) watts.
- (2) All lights must be placed on the:
 - (A) top of the vehicle;
 - (B) dashboard inside a vehicle, shielded to prevent distracting the driver; or
 - (C) front of the vehicle upon the bumper or at bumper level.
- (3) No more than four (4) blue light assemblies may be displayed on one (1) vehicle, and each blue light assembly must be of the flashing or revolving type.
- (4) A blue light assembly may contain multiple bulbs.
- (5) A blue light may not be a part of the regular head lamps



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displayed on the vehicles. Alternately flashing head lamps may be used as a supplemental warning device. Strobe lights or flashers may be installed into the light fixtures on the vehicle other than the alternating head lamps. The strobe lights or flashers may be either white or blue, with the exception of that red, yellow, or white may be used to the rear.

~~(b)~~ (d) In order for a volunteer firefighter to display a blue light on a vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must secure a written permit from the chief of the volunteer fire department to use the blue light and must carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.

(e) In order for a:

- (1) certified emergency medical technician;
- (2) certified emergency medical service driver; or
- (3) certified emergency medical service first responder;

to display a blue light on a vehicle, the certified emergency medical technician, the certified emergency medical service driver, or the certified emergency medical service first responder must first secure a written permit from the agency, entity, or company with which the person is employed or for which the person volunteers to use the light and must carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.

~~(c)~~ (f) A person who is not a member of a volunteer fire department, a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder may not display an illuminated blue light on a vehicle.

~~(d)~~ (g) A permittee of the owner of a vehicle lawfully equipped with a blue light may operate the vehicle only if the blue light is not illuminated.

~~(e)~~ (h) A person who violates subsection (a), (b), ~~(c)~~, or (d), (e), (f), or (g) commits a Class C infraction. If the violator is a member of a volunteer fire department, the chief of the department shall discipline the violator under fire department rules and regulations. **If the violator is a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder, the violator shall be disciplined under the appropriate employment or volunteer policy of the agency, entity, or company by which the person is employed or for which the person volunteers.**

~~(f)~~ (i) This section does not grant a vehicle displaying blue lights the right-of-way under IC 9-21-8-35 or exemption from traffic rules under IC 9-21-1-8. A driver of a vehicle displaying a blue light shall obey all traffic rules.



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~~(g)~~ **(j)** This section shall not be construed to include a vehicle displaying a blue light and driven by a member of a volunteer fire department, **a certified emergency medical technician, a certified emergency medical service driver, or a certified emergency medical service first responder** as an authorized emergency vehicle (as defined in IC 9-13-2-6).

SECTION 5. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] **(a) If a privately owned vehicle that is used while traveling in the line of duty in connection with emergency medical services is owned by a person described in IC 9-19-14.5-1, as amended by this act, before July 1, 2003, and is equipped with green lights as set forth in IC 9-19-14.5-1, as amended by this act, the person may continue to operate and use the lights on the vehicle in the manner provided for by IC 9-19-14.5-1 until July 1, 2008.**

(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2008."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1605 as introduced.)

RESKE, Chair

Committee Vote: yeas 14, nays 0.

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